

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 04971

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: TSPA, UN, UR
SUBJ: OUTER SPACE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE - NUCLEAR POWER
SOURCES

REF: STATE 036708

1. SUMMARY. DELS PARTICIPATED IN JOINT DISCUSSIONS WITH CANADA, SWEDEN AND JAPAN REGARDING THE WORKING PAPER ON THE USE OF NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES IN SPACE AND THE TACTICS TO BE FOLLOWED IN INTRODUCING APPROPRIATE WORDING INTO THE FINAL REPORT.

2. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR REPORTED THAT HE HAD A MEETING WITH MR. MAIORSKI (USSR) THE PREVIOUS EVENING ON THE NUCLEAR POWER SOURCE ISSUE. MAIORSKI WAS QUITE UPSET THAT THE WP HAD REACHED A POINT OF CONSIDERABLE AGREEMENT ESSENTIALLY LEAVING HIS HANDS TIED. HE STATED THAT IF THE CANADIANS TRIED TO PUT THIS PAPER IN THE FINAL REPORT, THERE WOULD BE NO FINAL REPORT. HE FURTHER IMPLIED THAT THE CANADIANS HAD BROKEN THE GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT WITH REGARD TO THE MANNER OF HANDLING THIS SUBJECT ON THE AGENDA AND THE REPORT. MAIORSKI STATED THAT THE CORRECT
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PLACE TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT IS IN THE PARENT COMMITTEE, AND THAT IT IS INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE TO BE ADDRESSING IT AT THE PRESENT TIME. THE CANADIANS ESSENTIALLY DISMISSED THE MORE EMOTIONAL ASPECTS WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT MAIORSKI WOULD PROBABLY BLOCK INTRODUCTION OF THE ENTIRE PAPER. MODIFICATIONS TO THE WP PREVIOUSLY SUGGESTED TO CANADA BY US DEL AND REINFORCED

BY REFTTEL WERE CONVEYED TO THE CANADIAN DEL WITH THE RESULT THAT THE PAPER WAS REVISED INCORPORATING ALL OF THE REQUESTED CHANGES. THE SOV DEL HAD AGREED TO INCLUDE IN THE FINAL REPORT OF THE LSC THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS: QUOTE. IN THE COURSE OF THE GENERAL DEBATE SOME (MANY) DELEGATIONS REFERRED TO LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE USE OF NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES IN OUTER SPACE. IN THE VIEW OF THESE DELEGATIONS THE RELEVANT EXISTING INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS NEEDED A REVIEW BY THE LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF RECOMMENDING ADDITIONAL LEGAL MEASURES TO ENSURE THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF SAFETY OF HUMAN LIFE AND THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE EARTH. SOME OF THESE DELEGATIONS SUGGESTED THAT THE LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE, AT ITS CURRENT SESSION, MIGHT START CONSIDERING POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PARENT COMMITTEE. QUOTE. OTHER DELEGATIONS POINTED OUT THAT LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE USE OF NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES IN OUTER SPACE WERE NOT ON THE AGENDA OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE WHICH IS FORMULATED AND APPROVED BY THE PARENT COMMITTEE, AND THAT THE MATTER WAS NOT SO URGENT THAT ITS CONSIDERATION BY THE LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE WOULD BE JUSTIFIED WITHOUT APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE.

QUOTE. IT WAS AGREED TO REQUEST THE PARENT COMMITTEE TO DECIDE WHETHER THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE USE OF NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES IN OUTER SPACE NEEDED CONSIDERATION BY THE CONFIDENTIAL

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LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE AND TO GIVE APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THIS EFFECT TO ITS SUBORDINATE BODIES. END QUOTE.

3. IN LATEST DEVELOPMENT, AFTERNOON OF MONDAY, APRIL 3, CANADIAN DEL INFORMED US THAT SOVIETS APPEAR READY TO ACCEPT INCORPORATION OF WORKING PAPER ON NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES IN ANNEX OF LSC REPORT, PROVIDED THAT BODY OF REPORT INDICATES ONLY THAT THE PAPER WAS TABLED, BUT NOT DISCUSS SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSAL IN ANY WAY. US DEL AS WELL AS OTHER LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES BELIEVE THAT THIS WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO HAVING REPORT LANGUAGE CITED IN PARA 2 ABOVE AND THE ABSENCE OF THE PAPER FROM THE REPORT. VANDEN HEUVEL

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